

WEST VIRGINIA SUCCESS STORY

ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION PROJECT PAYS OFF IN SHORT TIME

ABOUT PRECISION TOOL AND MACHINE. Precision Tool is a CNC machine shop based in Morgantown, West Virginia, that specializes in rapid prototyping, short-run and high-volume machining projects. With close to 10 employees, Precision Tool serves the coal, oil and gas, pharmaceutical, lumber, and hardwood industries and machines a wide variety of materials, including all plastics, brass, bronze, and stainless steel.

THE CHALLENGE. Precision Tool management wanted to implement ISO 9001, an international Quality Management System (QMS) standard, to assure customers of the company's commitment to quality. They contacted the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WVMEP), part of the MEP National Network, for assistance in training employees and implementing the ISO 9001 QMS.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. WVMEP evaluated Precision Tool's existing QMS and performed an ISO 9001 review to determine the additional requirements needed to pass an ISO 9001:2015 certification audit. Precision Tool's management team worked with WVMEP to understand and refine their processes to ensure and expedite certification. WVMEP provided 9001:2015 QMS training to the management team, developed standard operating procedures and additional documentation, and served as lead auditor in support of the new QMS.

After completing the implementation process and conducting an internal audit, WVMEP and Precision Tool management determined that the company was ready for its ISO 9001:2015 audit. WVMEP helped to select and schedule an accredited third-party registrar, and Precision Tool achieved ISO 9001:2015 certification on the first attempt with no non-conformances.

The entire ISO project only took six months. During that time, WVMEP also conducted a safety and Lean Manufacturing evaluation for the company, including an E3 environmental assessment that produced over 50 recommendations for process improvements. Precision Tool increased sales, hired new employees, and launched several Continuous Improvement initiatives based on recommendations from WVMEP.

"Without WVMEP, I would not have been able to get the help I needed to get projects done. They helped me with safety, Value Stream Mapping and most of all the ISO certification. Without WVMEP, I never would have been able to become ISO-certified. They took us to a whole new level of quality."

-Heather Cyphert, Owner

RESULTS



Increased sales by 5-7% in 2018



Hired 2 new employees



Achieved ISO certification in 6 months



Identified over 50 potential process improvements

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